Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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Vol. 8 February 1, 1973 No. 1

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET ELIMINATES FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR LIBRARY PROGRAMS

President Nixon's 1974 budget, released to the Congress on January 29, contains no categorical aid for library programs under the Library Services and Construction Act. Funds from the Library Services and Construction Act and its predecessor Library Services Act have been used in Montana since 1957, and have provided the impetus for multi-county federations serving twenty counties; have assisted in construction or remodeling of libraries serving seventeen cities and counties; have provided the basis for service to state institutions, and have paid a major part of the cost of the State Library's service to the blind and physically handicapped. In addition, LSCA funds have provided materials and staff and operating expenses to make it possible for the State Library to serve as a resource for interlibrary loan and reference service for the libraries of the state and for state government.

MONTANA LEGISLATIVE MEASURES AFFECTING LIBRARIES

House Bill 55 contains appropriations for all units of the Department of Education, including the University System, the Arts Council, Historical Society, and State Library. Appropriations contained in H.B. 55 for the State Library's programs during the coming biennium are as follows, compared with expenditures anticipated for the year ending June 30, 1973:

	1973	1974	1975
From the General fund (state money)			
All purposes except grants to public libraries	175,000	183,859	193,248
Grants to public libraries	0	0	0
From Federal funds (LSCA money)	313,287	302,370	304,183

As a part of its budget request for the biennium, the State Library Commission has requested funds, in addition, for state grants to public libraries, to equalize support for libraries, to strengthen resource center libraries, and to provide incentive grants to libraries which are supported by mill levies which reach the legal maximum but are still inadequate to meet local needs for service. These funds are not included in House Bill 55, but are even more essential if federal funds which have served to strengthen public libraries in the past are no longer forthcoming. With no state grant money, further development of multi-county federations through the demonstration process will cease. Without adequate state funding of the State Library's operations, all services of the State Library will suffer drastic cuts, and some may be eliminated entirely.

House Bill 154, which would have authorized local government units to charge tax exempt entities (specifically including public libraries) for services supplied for the benefit of said entities was killed in committee.

Senate Joint Resolution 31, which would request the Legislative Council to study the administration and finance of Montana libraries, has been referred to the Senate Education Committee. This measure closely follows a draft proposed by the Montana Library Association's Library Development Committee and the State Library Commission.

As a part of its program to distribute state documents to depository libraries, the State Library daily mails bills, journals, and calendars of both the House and the Senate to in-state depository libraries (the University of Montana, Montana State University, Eastern Montana College, the Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology, and the Great Falls and Billings Public Libraries). Introduction of bills has proceeded faster than their printing; many bills are listed in the daily legislative calendars contained in the press some days prior to their actual availability. Librarians interested in the progress of bills which relate to library service may call the State Library's IN-WATS line for further information.

MONTANA BIOMEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR NAMED

The appointment of Mrs. Ethel Hill as Biomedical Communications Director for Montana has been jointly announced by the Pacific Northwest Regional Health Sciences library and Montana's Statewide Health Science Committee. Mrs. Hill's office is at the State Library, in Helena; she began her activities on January 16. From her background in medical libraries in Hawaii, Iran, Sierra Leone, Jamaica, and California, Mrs. Hill will work to accelerate the efforts already undertaken within Montana to create a statewide biomedical communications system and to develop, in cooperation with local individuals and organizations, a basic local service pattern, locally funded, receiving back-up, as in the past, from the Pacific Northwest Regional Health Sciences Library. Part of her objective will be to improve health sciences library collections and services in the short run by consultation, education, and training. Further, she will identify additional funding sources, public or private, to insure the continued development of these services, including permanent funding for her position (temporarily funded by the Health Sciences Library).

MONTANA IN PRINT

The State Library's new bibliography of Montaniana, compiled by Marie MacDonald and Harold Chambers, has been distributed to all libraries in Montana listed on the State Library's mailing list. Copies have been sent to state library agencies in all states. A limited number of single copies are available to individuals upon request. Preparation and publication of the bibliography was supported by funds available under Title III of the Library Services and Construction Act.

MONTANIANA

This section of the Newsletter will list all Montana items added to the collection of the State Library since completion of copy for Montana in Print, the bibliography noted elsewhere in this issue. The State Library will continue to list only those items available in its collection; prepublication notices cannot be accepted.

Environmental pollution in Montana, edited by Robert Bigart. Essays contributed by a number of environmental concerned and involved people on all sides of the issues, the book is designed for the lay reader, perhaps especially for use in environmentally concerned high school and college courses. Mountain Press Publishing Co., 287 West Front Street, Missoula 59801, 1972. $3.95.

How to make money trout farming, by Paul D. McAdam. Gateway Echo Office Supply, Livingston, Mt., 1972. $5.95.

How to raise trout for fun and profit, by Paul D. McAdam. Second edition, 1971, Gateway Echo Office Supply, Livingston, Mt. $5.95.

How to raise wild game birds for fun and profit, by Paul D. McAdam. Gateway Echo Office Supply, Livingston, Mt., 1969. $5.95.

Campfires and cowchips, by Floyd Hardin. Early ranch life in Montana, particularly in the Malta area. 1972. Available from Mrs. Floyd Hardin, Malta, Mt. $7.95.

David R. Hoffman
State Librarian